

The Pocahontas Times.

Andrew & Norman Price, Owners.

"Montani Semper Liberi!"

Andrew Price, Editor

VOL. 15, NO. 2

MARLINTON, WEST VIRGINIA, AUGUST 6, 1897.

\$1.00 PER YEAR

Julius Hines & Son
BALTIMORE, MD.

No. 11—Polished Solid Oak 6-Drawer Chest, 28 inches high, 30X inches long, 18 inches deep. It is well constructed and has good locks on each drawer. Special price, (orders promptly filled).

\$3.39

Our success is not accidental. It is the result of 45 years of honorable business. Our experience in the Furniture and Carpet business is yours for the asking. Our immense illustrated catalogue of Furniture, Oil Closets, Baby Carriages, Refrigerators, Bedding, Springs, Steel Beds, etc., is free to all who write for it, and we pay all postage. If you ask your local dealer's advice, as he will not send for our catalogue, as he will lose a customer. If you consult your pocket-book, and want double value for your dollars, you will deal with the manufacturer. Send your name on a postal now.

The Pocahontas Times.

THE INSTITUTE.

During the coming week, the teachers of Pocahontas county will be among us, and their presence is hailed with more than ordinary pleasure and interest.

Impressions will be made and influences will be set in motion that will be as far reaching as the immortal in humanity has consciousness and power of action. The timely suggestion of the superintendent of schools has no doubt been considered and all truly worthy teachers have been enthused and will endeavor to make this one of the best institutes ever convened. Blessed as these teachers are with applying minds, studious habits, and retentive memories, they have much to encourage them to make the best of their opportunities, and go forth to meet their pupils prepared by precept and example to show them how to live and what to do to make their lives worth living.

These teachers have the good, yet responsible, fortune to be living and working in the closing years of the most remarkable centuries of the world's history. It is no time to be droning or dreaming that life is a mere pastime or for sensual enjoyment, but to be intelligently awake, up and doing the duties in hand, with hearts for any fate

"Still achieving, still pursuing, Learn to labor and to wait."

During the next week our town will be given up to be run, not by the new woman, but by as pretty a bevy of ladies, who if not new are not old, as ever bloomed on the hills or in the vales of any county in West Virginia, and visiting young men to correspond.

The institute then is soon to be here, and the welcome presence of the teachers and instructors will enliven our streets and homes.

We would suggest that congenial friends pair off and discuss the merits of the English and American methods of spelling somewhat after this fashion:

LADY.—I am rather in favor of the English than the American mode of spelling.

GENTLEMAN.—"Yes?" Thus interrogatively expressing his surprise that such should be the case.

LADY.—"Yes indeed! Take parlor for instance; having 'u' in it makes all the difference in the world."

S. C. R.

THE Princess Dowager of China seems to be in a very unhappy state of mind. It appears that Prince Tsai did not congratulate her on her recent birth day, and refused to worship at the shrine of his ancestors. She has sentenced him to a dungeon for life. He is deprived of his royal title, publicly punished on the bare back with bamboo until he pleads for mercy and shut up and fed on spare diet until he manifests regret for his conduct. This stern old lady is the Queen Victoria of the Chinese. The first lady of the Flowery Kingdom.

THE Chinese Government, after so long a time, seems to have caught the prevailing military epidemic, and is about to reorganize the army on German military principles, and orders for rifles have been placed with German manufacturers. A new fleet will be fitted out as soon as possible. English parties get the contract for new vessels, and Germans the other half. The Armstrongs have been spoken to for the guns needed for the new fleet.

"WANT to ride a bicycle, do you?" snapped the old man. Your mother never went whizzing about on a wheel.

"Yes," retorted the dutiful daughter, "that is just what ma told me. She says that maybe if she had she would have caught a better looking man."—Indianapolis Journal.

GUSHING VISITOR—I should think there would be always something new to see in this great city with its teeming millions!

MATTER-OF-FACT RESIDENT—Ye-es, of course—but teaming ain't what it used to be. Everybody rides bicycles now.—Chicago Daily Tribune.

BIOGRAPHIC NOTES.

One of the most substantial and prosperous citizens of our county in its formative period was the late William Sharp, Esq., near Verdant Valley. He was a son of William Sharp, senior, who settled near Huntersville, and whose dwelling was near where the new road around the mountain leaves the old Green Bank road. Traces of it yet remain near the roadside, and may be easily noticed by persons passing that way. He had scarcely attained his majority when he and Elizabeth Waddell were married at Alexander Waddell's. This worthy couple at once settled in the woods and opened up a fine estate, out of a forest noted for the tremendous size of its walnut, red oak, and sugar maple trees, and reared a worthy family.

In reference to their sons and daughters the following particulars have been mainly learned from his daughter, Mrs. Martha Dille, near Dille's Mill.

James Sharp, the eldest son, married Athalia Martin and lived on Brown's Creek, on the farm now owned by Amos Barlow, Esq. His son William died at home. Hanson died in Camp Chase, O. George died a prisoner of war. His daughter Elizabeth married Thomas Logan, in Randolph; and Sarah has her home with her sister, Mrs. Logan.

William Sharp, junior, married Rachel Dille, daughter of the late Martin Dille, of "The Hills," and settled on lower Elk near Linwood (Big Spring). His sons Harmon, Silas, and Hugh are well-known citizens. Bernard fell mortally wounded at Dunean's Lane. Henry was wounded near William Gibson's, on Elk, and died of his wounds. Luther was shot near his father's home by a scouting party. All three of these sons were Union soldiers. Mary Ella, the only daughter, died at the age of six years.

Alexander Sharp, son of William Sharp the settler, married Mary Dille, sister of Rachel just mentioned, and settled on a section of the old homestead. His only child is Mrs. Hannah Johnson, and lives at her father's.

Jacob Warwick Sharp, son of the Verdant Valley pioneer, married Elizabeth McNeil, daughter of the late Isaac McNeil, of the Levels, and lived on the old homestead. In reference to his family the following particulars are given.

William married Julia Moore, daughter of Isaac Moore, Esq., and lives at Edray. His daughter is Mrs. James W. Price, M. D.

Paul married Eveline Moore, Julia's sister, and lives on the Greenbrier River at the Bridger Place. Isaac married Miami, eldest daughter of Taylor Moore, and lives near Edray. Giles married Katie Cochran, daughter of the late Captain William Cochran, of Stony Creek, and lives on the homestead. Jacob, junior, died in childhood. Elizabeth married J. R. Poage, and Catherine married Quincy W. Poage, his first wife.

These are sons of the late Colonel Woods Poage, and reside at Poage's Lane. Ann is Mrs. S. B. Moore, near Edray. Francis married A. Neal Barlow, and lives on a section of the old homestead. Magdalen died in childhood. Jacob W. Sharp died but recently, much lamented by a very large circle of friends and relatives.

John Sharp, son of William the settler, married Sally Johnson, daughter of the late William Johnson, on the Greenbrier, and lives near Marlinton. His sons are Henry, Hugh, Ewing, James, and David. Mary is Mrs. Frank Dille; Nancy is Mrs. Ervine Wilfong; Martha is Mrs. James Wilfong; Susan is Mrs. Amzi Ervine.

Elizabeth Sharp, daughter of the venerated settler, married Hugh McLaughlin, near Huntersville, and is yet living over 95 years of age. (1897.)

Jane Sharp, another daughter, married James Hanson and settled in Gallia County, Ohio. Her children were William, John, Lydia, Elizabeth, and Catherine. Mary Sharp, daughter of Wil-

liam the ancestor, married David Gibson, Esq., and settled on Elk, where Robert Gibson now lives. Her children are mentioned in the Gibson sketches.

Rebecca Sharp, another daughter of the ancestor, William Sharp, married William Moore, son of the late Aaron Moore, on Greenbrier River, and settled on the Crooked Branch of Elk, on the place now owned by her son, Jacob S. Moore. Her children were Mary Jane who married John McLaughlin, son of Major Daniel McLaughlin, and settled beyond Green Bank. Elizabeth married Joseph C. Gay, and lives on Elk Mountain near the old home. Mr. Gay was a noted Confederate scout, and is a prosperous citizen. Matthias Moore married Jennie Mays, and lives in Botetourt County, Virginia. C. L. Moore married Mary Martha, the only daughter of Lieut. James McLaughlin, who died of wounds at Winchester during the war. Jacob Sharp Moore married Harriet Gay, daughter of the late John Gay, Esq., near Marlinton, and lives on the homestead. Nancy Moore married Jonas Simmons, and lived at Mingo, Randolph County.

Anna Sharp, daughter of William the settler, married Alexander Stalnaker, and settled in Randolph County. Her daughter, Mary Stalnaker, married Bryson Hamilton, of that county.

Ellen Sharp married Warwick Stalnaker, of Randolph County. Her daughter Lizzie became Mrs. Dr. David Gibson, of the same vicinity.

Nancy Sharp, another member of the settler's family married Jacob Cassell, from Back Alleghany, and went to Illinois, and are living at Woodstock, Illinois.

Martha Sharp, youngest daughter of the pioneer, married Andrew Dille, and settled on Thorny Creek. There were three children, two sons and a daughter. Hanson Dille married Caroline Stalnaker, of Randolph County, and lives at Dille's Mill. Amos Dille married Minta Dille; daughter of Ralph Dille, near Dille's Mill, and located on Thorny Creek.

The daughter Elizabeth Frances died at the age of two years. Mrs. Dille now lives at the old Dille homestead. Her husband died a year or so since, a very estimable citizen.

Thus far the writer has been able to furnish some historical items that illustrate the family history of two very estimable persons. These people were the intimate friends and neighbors of Jacob Warwick and his wife Mary Vance. Mrs. Warwick cherished feelings of special friendship for Mrs. Elizabeth Sharp. Mrs. Sharp did all she could to encourage Mrs. Warwick in her efforts to conduct a Sabbath school near where the Friel cabin stood. Mrs. Warwick, tho so weak, as to require the servants to lift her on her horse and help her off, would leave her home at Clover Lick at an early hour, meet her Sunday school, spend several hours reading the Bible and giving good advice. Then she was lifted on her faithful horse to go home with Mrs. Sharp, take dinner and a good rest, and then about the cool of the evening would her way back along the narrow, steep, and rugged road. The aged Mrs. McLaughlin says that some of the best advice she ever had was at this Sunday-school, carried on by Mrs. Warwick and her own mother, Mrs. Sharp.

Mr. Sharp lived to a very advanced age, having survived his wife many years. He lived to see his children married and settled. His appearance was venerable, and nature had done very much for him in the way of natural endowments of mind and vigor of body. He first saw the young person that he married at Thomas Drennan's, near Edray, where she spent a week or two spinning flax. While she was there a preacher happened to come along, (believed to have been Bishop Asbury), Mr. Drennan drummed up a congregation, and among those present was a young and bashful youth with a new coonskin cap that he seemed to set a great deal of store by.

Miss Waddell seemed to think it was very funny, and when she went home had a good deal to say about the ugly, funny-looking young man she had seen at the meeting. The mother remonstrated and said: "O Betsy, don't talk so; that young chap will be to see you, first thing you know."

Sure enough he did slip in, and found Betsy not exactly "robbed and ready" either. She had just finished and hung out "a wash," and by way of a restful change was performing on her spinning-wheel, in short petticoat, chemise, and barefooted. Having shown him a chair she resumed her performance at the wheel, and as he meant business and time was precious, matters were pretty well arranged by midnight.

These young people thus being all the world to each other and not afraid to work their cabin home was an earthly paradise. A fine estate was opened up, a worthy Sharp Moore married Harriet Gay, and the way prepared for many worthy families to have a local habitation and a name in a goodly land. The influence of these good people was in the interest of untiring industry, honest dealing, generous hospitality, and patriotic citizenship.

W. T. P.

Don't Go to Alaska.

"Don't go to Alaska" is the advice of S. S. Lebeck. He is interested in mining ventures in the Black Hills, Colorado, and Mexico, and has prospected for gold in California, South Dakota, Colorado and Mexico, and South Africa, and is among the most experienced miners in the country.

"What's all the world to a man when his wife's a widow? He may bring back a meal sackful of dust from the diggings, but if he has to travel in a pine box himself, what good can it do him? I took a scout up the Yukon two years ago, and tho too old for hard work myself, talked with many miners, inspected a number of claims, and formed my own opinion of the ground were covered with nuggets the size of brickbats.

I suppose that I have conversed with at least 50 graduates from the Alaskan mines—among them several of whom had done well. Not one but swore he wouldn't go back if he knew he could treble his gains. And they tried it when it was comparatively easy. Supplies were high, but they were to be had by any one who could pay for them. In this new El Dorado they are frequently not to be had at all—for love or money. A man who is snowed in without provisions in a lonely gulch can starve with millions in his pockets.

"If the prospector does not starve he freezes. If he does not freeze the mosquitos eat him alive in the summer. Most people think they can stand mosquito bites for a fortune but they have never seen the Alaska article. They literally drive their victims insane. There are plenty of well authenticated cases on record. If he does survive the awful rigors of the climate, the pangs of hunger, and the bites of ravenous insects, he returns home broken in health, to spend all he has made on doctors and nurses.

"And, maybe he does not make a cent. One would suppose to read the stories now in circulation that every man is sure of a fortune. That is all bosh. They told the same stories of California '49. Every man who returned corroborated the wildest accounts. He admitted gold prospecting had always been gambling in the past, but asserted that nuggets were so thick in California that they could not be missed. Mining is a lottery everywhere, in Alaska as well as in California, Mexico, Australia or Africa. For every man who makes his pile a thousand go broke and a hundred lose their lives.

"Many people have asked my advice on Alaskan mining, and I have invariably counseled them to stay at home. If they must prospect they had better try Colorado or the Black Hills. Money is being made in both places. The winnings are not so large but the venturer does not stake his life on the east.

ABSURD ALL ROUND.—"Isn't it absurd what ideas people in small towns have of large cities?"

"Yes; there's just one thing more absurd."

"What is that?"

How Old are You?

It makes no difference whether you answer or not. It is always true that "a woman is as old as she looks." Nothing sets the seal of age upon a woman's beauty so deeply, as gray hair. The hair loses its color generally from lack of nutrition. If you nourish the hair, the original color will come back. That is the way that the normal color of the hair is restored by

Ayer's Hair Vigor.

This testimonial will be found in full in Ayer's "Curebook" with a hundred others. Free. Address J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.

"Is that Stonewall Jackson?"

The New York Sun prints an account of some concerts given at the Windsor Hotel by the Stonewall Jackson Band of Staunton, Virginia, while it was in New York participating in the Grant Day ceremonies. In connection with one of them, a strange and amusing occurrence is reported:

The first concert was held on Monday evening, when President McKinley arrived. It was a big success, and afterwards the members of the band crowded around General Gordon and shook hands with him. A well dressed man with a sandy mustache sidled up to one of the spectators, and pointing to General Gordon, said:

"Is that Stonewall Jackson?"

The spectator turned toward the questioner with a quizzical look, but, noticing that the man was apparently in earnest, said with a smile:

"No, I am trying to find out who he is."

Congressman Tate, who was talking with General Gordon, left him for moment, and was button-holed immediately by the sandy mustached man.

"Excuse me, sir, was that gentleman Stonewall Jackson that you were talking to?"

The Congressman glared at the sandy mustached man, apparently undecided whether he was the subject of a Northern affront or not.

"No, sir; it was not," said the Congressman.

"Well, when will he arrive?" queried the sandy-mustached man.

The guileless expression of the questioner caused the Congressman to smile as he said:

"My dear sir, a short course of United States history would do you a world of good."

The Congressman then walked off. The sandy-mustached man was last seen receiving an explanation from the hotel clerk.

In relating the death of a pious citizen, a rural correspondent concludes with this verse:

"His life was square and level,
Ere death had set him free
He said: 'I see the devil,
But he
Can't
Git
Me!'"

—[Exchange.

The Court Came Back.

Judge Randolph, of the Kansas District Court, was one of the frontier judicial officers who believed in upholding the dignity of the bench, and as well tenacious of his own personal honor.

A divorce suit, in which a gray-haired veteran of the late war was plaintiff, came up before him while he was on a circuit out in a prairie county. The rude court-room was filled with spectators, and the old man seemed unwilling to go on the stand in his own defence.

"I am not going to grant divorces without good reasons," announced the Court; and the plaintiff went to the chair that served as a witness box.

"Now," said the attorney, "tell us just what your wife did to make you leave her."

Pine-Bark Boats.

Everybody is familiar with the birch-bark boats, or canoes, of the American Indians, but the fact is not so well known that some of the aboriginal inhabitants of the western shore of this continent were accustomed to make boats of pine-bark. A model of one of these in the Smithsonian museum served recently as a text for a talk by Prof. Otis T. Mason on the evolution of boats. The boat in question was, he said, an exact representation of those in use along certain parts of the Columbia River. It is made of the whole skin of a pine-tree, which is turned inside out, the ends being cut obliquely and drawn together in such a manner that the vessel has a pointed ram under water at each end. Directly across the Pacific Ocean from the Columbia is the River Amur in Asia. Professor Mason thinks the fact that similar boats are found on the Amur may have bearing on the problem of former emigration from Asia to North America.—Youth's Companion.

THE Evangel, of Baltimore, has an editorial concerning a work of co-operation, begun six years ago in Maine, between the five leading religious denominations of that state, by which it was agreed when one denomination occupied a sparsely settled community the others would not try to establish churches in that territory. The Congregationalists, Methodists, Free-Baptists, Christians, and Baptists entered into this agreement and appointed an interdenominational committee to carry out this policy. Recently a conference was held and all concerned expressed themselves as pleased with the working of the plan. It is claimed that such comity saves a great deal of friction between the denominations, and also a considerable sum of state mission money.

Hot weather prompted Consul General Lee to do a dreadful deed which for the benefit of American readers, the Havana *La Carta del Sabado* describes in its own English: "He has the discourtesy of assisting an official act in lesser clothes, in a salon where the portrait of our noble queen, model of all virtues, was ostentatiously in light apparel." In other words, General Lee worked in his shirt-sleeves in a room that contained a picture of the Queen of Spain. For this offence *La Carta* prays that "his destitution may soon come."

THE July reports of the Department of Agriculture indicate a more than usual favorable condition of the winter wheat crop in the principle winter wheat-producing states. What is called the statistical position of wheat, by which is meant the prospect of a new crop, viewed in connection with the supplies on hand, and with foreign crop prospects, is the strongest for several years. The world's available stocks, the second week in July, did not amount to more than 75,000,000 bushels, which is the smallest like total for about ten years; and the crop prospects in India and Europe were encouraging, while in the United States they pointed to a large yield.

THE pleasures of tourists visiting the Alps will be much hindered by one of the most terrible hail storms on record. Crops and fruit trees have been virtually destroyed, buildings damaged and telegraph wires torn down. General consternation prevails in the districts effected, so damaging have been the effects of the hail and hurricane.